

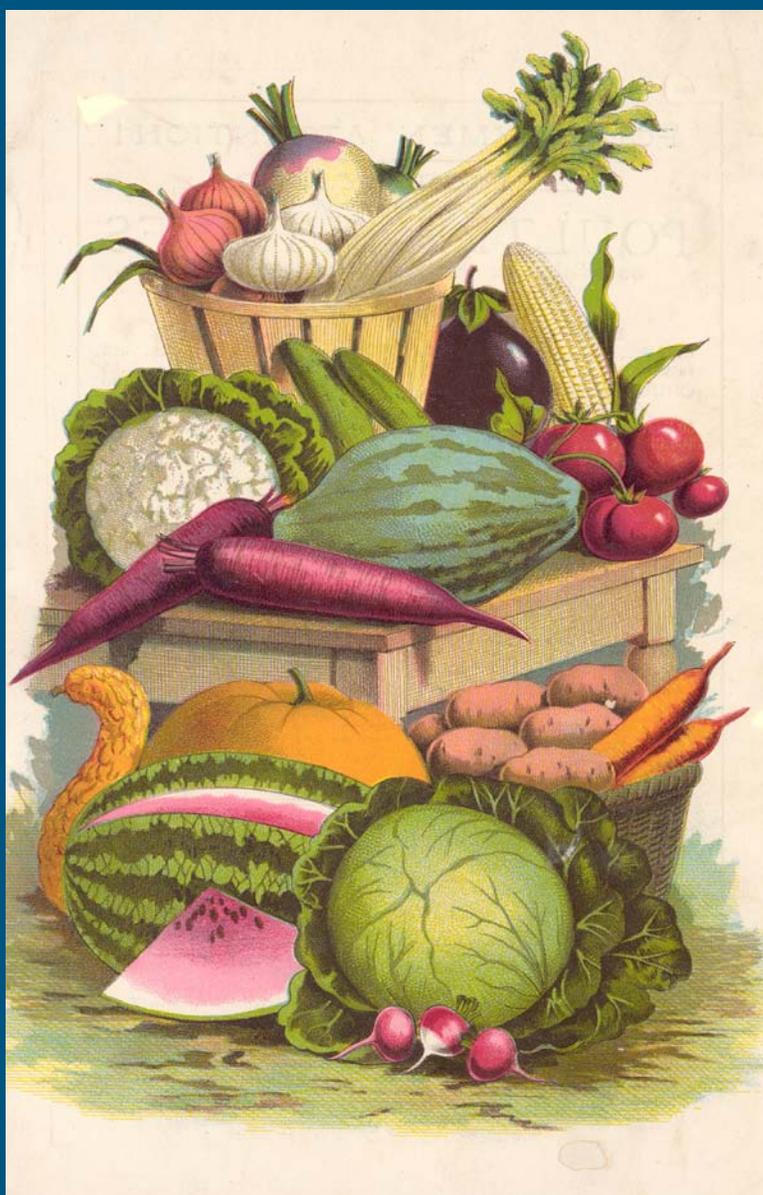
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Research  
Service

National Agricultural  
Library

March 2007

# National Agricultural Library 2003



## Abstract

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library. 2007. National Agricultural Library 2003. USDA-ARS-NAL, 32 pp.

Summarizes the accomplishments of the National Agricultural Library in 2003.

Keywords: AGRICOLA, agricultural history, agricultural information, agricultural library, agriculture, Department of Agriculture, human nutrition, information center, national libraries



### About the Cover

The image featured on the cover is drawn from the Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection, part of the Special Collections of the National Agricultural Library.

## ARS Mission

The Agricultural Research Service conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provides information access and dissemination to—

- Ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products.
- Assess the nutritional needs of Americans.
- Sustain a competitive agricultural economy.
- Enhance the natural resource base and the environment.
- Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

## The National Agricultural Library—

- Serves as a national library of the United States and as the library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Acquires, organizes, manages, preserves, and provides access to information and provides quality stewardship of its unique collection.
- Assists, trains, and educates people based on assessment of their information needs.
- Provides leadership in information management.
- Maximizes access to information through collaborative efforts and utilization of technology.
- Enhances global cooperation through international exchange of information and the provision of services and technical assistance.

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## *From the Director*

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In 2003, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) began repositioning organizational resources to create a robust environment for the future, capable of continuous improvement. This process was designed to provide NAL the capacity to offer new value-added services in response to the changing needs of our customers for information related to agriculture. NAL's planning process involves the entire NAL organization along with partner institutions throughout the nation.

The Library's accomplishments, highlighted in this report, provide the basis for future integrated service development. In 2003, NAL staff launched a USDA digital desktop library (DigiTop), implemented the Voyager integrated library system (ILS), expanded Web-based information services, created extensive new Web content, improved document delivery services, and instituted a system to measure customer satisfaction. These achievements reflect NAL's creativity and expertise in serving the Department of Agriculture and the nation and form a foundation for future improvements in service to our customers.

To establish a process to plan future services, NAL engaged Michael Crandall, Technology Manager for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to conduct an analysis of Web-based systems and to recommend organizational approaches for NAL to better respond to customers' needs. Crandall's thoughtful recommendations initiated valuable NAL staff discussion about technology-based integrated services and for planning the Library's future priorities, direction, and vision. The skill and dedication reflected in the accomplishments included in this report, and the service improvements planned for the years ahead, will enable NAL customers to benefit from continual improvements in NAL services.

In our last report, I wrote about the 2001 interagency panel review of NAL activities and about the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board's subsequent strong endorsement of the interagency panel's recommendations (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/assessment/comments/index.html>). These recommendations continue to guide and inspire NAL as staff plan future service improvements.

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I encourage you to review these recommendations in conjunction with these reports. NAL is using the recommendations of the interagency panel and the NAREEE Board to develop a roadmap for the years ahead. The Library is working to realize the NAREEE Board's further recommendation that "revitalization and visibility of the NAL should be high on USDA's overall priorities for the future."

NAL's future offers exciting opportunities, as staff continues to connect and engage customers with relevant agricultural information, services, content, and resources. This progress is increasingly vital to the nation and has a direct impact on our ability to meet the global challenges of the future.

We invite you to share your own suggestions for NAL's future. You may e-mail me directly at [Director@nal.usda.gov](mailto:Director@nal.usda.gov). I look forward to hearing about your ideas, and we look forward to your help in shaping NAL's future vision and direction.

**Peter R. Young**  
Director



On January 22, 2003, Secretary Ann M. Veneman officially launched a pilot year of DigiTop, ushering in a new era for USDA agricultural information.



# Chapter 1

## Connecting Customers With Information About Agriculture

During 2003, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) improved services and extended its programs to more customers. Due largely to increased use of Web-based information services, customer transactions with NAL increased by 17 percent from 2002, to total more than 50 million. Leading this trend for increased use were NAL's Animal Welfare Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic>), Food and Nutrition Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic>), and Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic>). Customer transactions with these information centers increased an average of 46 percent over 2002, reflecting added content and functionality.

### Measuring Customer Satisfaction

To better plan future services, NAL began using an online survey to measure customer satisfaction. Using ForeSee Results, which employs the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), NAL collected baseline data about website customer usage and satisfaction for comparison with other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies and departments governmentwide. NAL will apply the results to guide website design and Web content development.



Lily camellia. J. Horace McFarland Collection.  
Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

## DigiTop—the Digital Desktop Library for USDA

NAL launched DigiTop (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/digitop>) for a first pilot year in January 2003. DigiTop provides more than 114,000 USDA employees with online, full-text access to articles published in 1,400 professional and scientific journals available from commercial and society publishers. The resources in DigiTop include hundreds of newspapers from around the world, as well as a number of citation databases and other significant reference resources. In its first pilot year, DigiTop hosted 68,180 Web visits by USDA employees who downloaded 335,373 full-text articles from an array of scientific publications.

NAL established proxy access to DigiTop, permitting USDA employees Internet access to DigiTop from anywhere in the world. Proxy access to DigiTop hosted 513,688 hits in the first year of operation.

## Document Delivery Improvements

During 2003, NAL completed 98 percent of document delivery requests in 2 days or less, a significant improvement over prior years. Also, by offering e-mail attachment and post-to-web options, NAL enhanced electronic document delivery services. By increasing efficiency and expanding

**114,552**  
**Approximate number**  
**of USDA employees**  
**authorized access to**  
**DigiTop at launch,**  
**January 22, 2003.**

Hemerocallis flava (Lemon Day Lily). *Les Liliacees*, Volume 1, 1802. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.



electronic delivery options, NAL focused on productivity improvements for agricultural researchers.

With the concurrence of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), NAL established cost recovery chargeback arrangements with all USDA agencies for document delivery services to employees. Although NAL continues to absorb a significant portion of these costs, the recovered costs funded the acquisition of software and equipment that will speed processing of document requests.

### **Food Safety Information Center**

In order to respond effectively to emerging food safety issues and to minimize duplication, NAL combined the Food Safety Research Information Office (FSRIO), the Foodborne Illness Education Information Center, and the Food Safety Training and Education Alliance (FSTEa) to create the Food Safety Information Center (FSIC). (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/foodsafety/>). This newest NAL information center consolidates databases and websites into more effective resources. Customers now have a robust search engine with enhanced features that provide more meaningful search and discovery capability. This combined-function information center serves as a model that is capable of quickly and effectively responding to changing priorities.

### **WIC Learning Online**

NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/>) created a Web-based learning program related to human nutrition that will be used by over 10,000 professionals who work with USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). ([http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/WIC\\_Learning\\_Online/index.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/WIC_Learning_Online/index.html))

The 12-module course, which is arranged in 4 lessons, offers WIC nutritionists and paraprofessionals at all levels convenient and user-friendly access to development and continuing education courseware available via the Web. The course is approved for four Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits by the American Dietetic Association's Commission on Dietetic Registration. NAL's work on this project was undertaken in cooperation with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/>) and the University of Maryland's Department of Nutrition and Food Science.

The WIC course is publicly available. Students who successfully complete the lesson assessments may print a personalized certificate of completion.

**55,247,794**  
**Total hits to NAL**  
**websites in FY**  
**2003, 24% more**  
**since FY 2002. An**  
**average of about**  
**105 hits each**  
**minute, 24/7.**

## Using ARS “Super Slurper” To Dry Library Materials

In August 2003, NAL and its Technology Transfer Information Center entered into a Material Transfer Agreement Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Artifex Equipment, Inc., to investigate the effectiveness of the ARS Super Slurper and like polymers as a fast, new way to salvage water-damaged materials (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/spevents/thirst.htm>). The ARS Super Slurper is a starch-based polymer capable of absorbing and retaining up to 2,000 times its weight in moisture.

The agreement with Artifex will help determine whether the absorbent Super Slurper polymer can be used to dry books, papers, photographs, and other materials soaked by water from flooding, leaks, and other disasters. Current methods of drying wet library materials—air-drying, vacuum drying, and freeze-drying—are slower, more expensive, or can cause secondary damage. This technology promises to add an important new tool for librarians, archivists, and conservation specialists in handling water-damaged paper resources and collections.



Test drying of a wet book using the ARS Super Slurper.

## Chapter 2

### Advancing Technology and Improving Infrastructure

In 2003, NAL continued to improve its use of information technology, the Library's physical infrastructure, and administrative services in support of operations.

#### Voyager Integrated Library System (ILS) Implementation

The installation and implementation of the Voyager ILS represents the most significant advancement to NAL's operational systems environment in the last 2 decades. After years of planning and overcoming considerable challenges, NAL began using the new Voyager ILS for cataloging in November 2003.

Voyager is in use by over 600 libraries around the world, including the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine. Its Oracle operating system offers standards-based technology that provides the capability for adding future enhancements.

NAL's new ILS affects a wide array of the Library's technical, bibliographic, and customer services and provides opportunities for future advances and improved efficiencies. Voyager equips NAL staff to more easily

**4,080,552**  
**Bibliographic**  
**records cited**  
**in AGRICOLA,**  
**September 30,**  
**2003, including**  
**42,401 linked to**  
**full-text content.**



Front cover of Miss C.H. Lippincott's Catalog, 1897. Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

**125,538  
Requests for  
documents  
received by NAL  
in FY 2003. Of  
these, 76% were  
filled from NAL  
collections, the  
balance from  
other sources.  
NAL filled 98%  
of document  
delivery requests  
within 2 days.**

acquire materials, more effectively process receipts and invoices, and more efficiently create and maintain bibliographic records for AGRICOLA (AGRICultural On-Line Access) (<http://agricola.nal.usda.gov/help/aboutagricola.html>). In addition, staff now can add URLs to full-text records and customers can access the AGRICOLA database using a more sophisticated Web interface.

Most significantly, NAL's Web customers now enjoy improved search capabilities for accessing NAL's databases of serials and monographic content, due to the Voyager Web interface. When this upgraded and more reader-friendly AGRICOLA search interface was made available for public use in December 2003, use quadrupled—from an average 103,929 hits to AGRICOLA before implementation of the new Voyager Web interface to an average 413,815 hits per month after implementation.

### **Integrated Document Request and Delivery Management System**

In 2003, NAL received 125,538 document delivery requests from customers at USDA, as well as from libraries and institutions around the world. To manage document requests and support delivery of the requested documents, Library staff acquired the Relais Enterprise document delivery

system. Implementation of NAL's Relais system will enable customers to request and receive materials and to check on the status of their requests via the Web. The Relais system will also provide tracking and administrative control over the entire document delivery operation.

Plans to integrate the new Relais document delivery system with the Library's Voyager system in early 2005 will provide NAL customers with a seamless way to search, request, and receive specific items. This Relais-Voyager system integration will form the focus of NAL staff activity in 2004.



Woman standing by a bamboo gate. Dorsett-Morse Oriental Agricultural Exploration Expedition Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

## Crandall Technology Consultancy

NAL consulted with Michael Crandall, Technology Manager for The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to analyze NAL Web technologies and provide NAL with recommendations for integrated service development by reusable process-driven designs. Crandall's review of NAL's technology infrastructure generated recommendations for realigning NAL's structural, planning, and service functions. In a Web Technologies Analysis report, the consultant provided NAL with a rich mix of suggestions, directions, recommendations, and observations that generated much discussion, excitement, and interaction among NAL staff from all segments of the Library. This consultant initiative will provide the basis for planning future direction, technology, and systems needed for NAL to provide customer-centered services.

## Fifth Floor Renovation for Special Collections

In May 2003, NAL completed the redesign and construction of the 5th floor of the Library's Abraham Lincoln Building to house rare and special collections. The 9,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility was designed to meet National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) standards for materials requiring the highest level of environmental controls and security. The new facility has an independent air-handling system capable of maintaining stable temperature and humidity, an air filtering mechanism, a dry pipe sprinkler design, and a lighting system designed to protect materials from ultraviolet radiation. With the completion of this specialized facility, NAL's extensive collections of special, rare, and archival documents will be maintained within an environment suitable to the value and nature of these treasures.



Imperial Iris Garden, [Meiji] Shrine Ground, Tokyo, Japan.  
Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

**315,000**  
**Total square feet of**  
**NAL's 200-foot tall**  
**Abraham Lincoln**  
**Building.**

## Physical Security

With USDA supplemental funding from the Department of Defense, the Agricultural Research Service Homeland Security staff worked with NAL staff to enhance physical internal and perimeter security for NAL's Abraham Lincoln Building. These security upgrades included reinforced entrance security fixtures, new digital video surveillance system components, increased exterior lighting, a new cardkey access system, and the installation of Mylar film to prevent window glass fragmentation. In addition, NAL created a shelter-in-place area in the sub-basement to protect staff and customers in case of emergencies.

## Cyber Security and Upgraded Technology

NAL reviewed emerging cyber security trends and practices and formulated standard internal operating procedures in 2003. Infrastructural security changes and improvements included upgrading the Library's firewall, installing new interior doors, replacing the data center cardkey access system, and prototyping a virtual private network (VPN) for more secure remote access.

NAL also strengthened its technology infrastructure by improving local area networks, upgrading the Library's Internet connectivity (doubling available bandwidth and positioning NAL for further increases), completing a Library-wide migration to Windows 2000, planning and procuring a prototype audiovisual streaming system, implementing automated Help-Desk software, deploying primary and secondary Web servers, continuing life-cycle planning for servers and desktop clients, and upgrading NAL's Web search engine.



Agawam. *Grapes of America*, 1867. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

## Chapter 3

### Partnerships and Collaborations

NAL continually takes advantage of opportunities to collaborate with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, universities, and libraries. These partnerships are designed to augment or extend NAL programs and to foster information and knowledge exchanges related to agriculture. In 2003, NAL advanced existing partnerships and initiated some promising new ones.

#### Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Library Services

Operating under the umbrella of the Federal libraries and Information Centers Committee (FLICC), NAL worked with several other Federal libraries to design an information infrastructure to support the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The partnering libraries recommended actions to DHS, including expansion of DigiTop licensing agreements to cover DHS inspectors needing access to science and technology resources.

NAL also participated in a FLICC-sponsored pilot-test of virtual reference services for DHS. Using e-mail and online chat, NAL joined a group of 11 Federal libraries to assess the effectiveness of policies and procedures, success with users, and ongoing need for the new electronic reference service.

#### Invasive Species

With North Carolina State University (Center for Integrated Pest Management), the Department of the Interior (<http://www.doi.gov/>), and the National Invasive Species Council (<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/council/main.shtml>), NAL co-sponsored an October 2003 user requirements workshop for Federal Government agencies involved in issues relating to invasive species. Held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the workshop identified the invasive species information needs of Web users and how they could be addressed through the across-government [Invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov) (<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>) website maintained at NAL.

**218/80  
NAL Federal FTEs/  
contractor FTEs,  
FY 2003.**

## Land-Grant System

As part of a 2003 initiative to expand cooperation with the land-grant system, NAL entered into cooperative agreements with several land-grant and historically black colleges and universities, including:

- The University of Arizona, to develop rangeland profiles linked to personal stories on the impacts of invasive plant species on individuals and communities;
- North Carolina State University, to develop mapping capabilities enabling display of county-level distribution data for invasive species, and;
- Howard University, to develop information products for USDA food assistance programs and to assist with food stamp database development.

## Inter-American Cooperation

In June 2003, NAL participated in the IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture) Procinorte meeting of the Agricultural Library and Information Services Initiative, where it renewed agreements with the Canadian Agriculture Library and the Antonio Narro University Library in Saltillo, Mexico, to enhance access to agricultural information in the northern hemisphere and across the Americas.

## AgNIC (Agriculture Network Information Center)

In 2003, NAL continued to play an important role in the AgNIC partnership by providing staff support for the AgNIC secretariat and for maintenance and development of the AgNIC website (<http://www.agnic.org/>). The partners welcomed five new institutions: Colorado State University, Oglala Lakota College (AgNIC's first Tribal-College partner), Southwest Missouri State University, Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro, and the National Wildlife Research Center of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The new members will provide additional subject coverage including wildlife damage management, bison resources, viticulture, Spanish-language theses on arid agriculture, and translated titles for USDA digital publications. With these new partner institutions, the AgNIC alliance membership now totals 45.

**45**  
**NAL partner**  
**institutions in**  
**AgNIC alliance,**  
**September 30,**  
**2003, an increase**  
**of 5 since 2002.**

## Volunteer and Intern Programs

NAL began a volunteer program to provide customer-support assistance in circulation, ready reference, and special projects. Thus far, volunteers have included two high school students fulfilling community service requirements and seven other volunteers. Through a cooperative agreement with the University of Maryland libraries, graduate students specializing in archiving, preservation, and conservation are also gaining valuable field experience using NAL special collections.



*Peonia officinalis*. *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, Volume 43, 1816. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

## Chapter 4

### Building Collections for Customer Access

In 2003, NAL made use of its new Voyager ILS to speed the acquisition of serials and monographs, added to its already significant special collections, made great strides in securing and preserving its collections, led development of a USDA taxonomy, and arranged for additional NAL special collections to be Web accessible. Along the way, NAL staff was able to mitigate a significant serials subscription problem resulting from a vendor's business failure.

#### Voyager ILS Improves Order Processing

NAL's implementation of the Voyager ILS significantly improved the effectiveness, accuracy, and efficiency of acquisitions and serials processing. Affected functions include order and claims processing, report writing, automatic label creation, and the ability to do copy cataloging using Library of Congress records. The latter function reduces the amount of time needed to produce NAL catalog records, giving users timely access to new monographs. Efficiencies such as these achieved with the Voyager system provide the basis for significantly improving the Library's operational effectiveness in the near future.

#### NAL Agricultural Thesaurus and USDA Taxonomy

In March 2003, NAL published the 2nd edition of the NAL Agricultural Thesaurus (<http://agclass.nal.usda.gov/agt/agt.shtml>)—an arrangement of structured terms that uniquely reflect agricultural subjects. This 2nd

**58,300**  
**Terms in the 2nd**  
**edition of the**  
**NAL Agricultural**  
**Thesaurus, 2,300**  
**terms added since**  
**the 1st edition in**  
**2002.**



Front cover of D.M. Ferry & Company's Seed Annual, 1882. Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

edition included 2,300 new terms for a total of 58,300 entries. NAL staff worked with USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) staff to expand the youth development, family studies, and consumer science subject areas for this new edition. In July 2003, NAL began assigning NAL Agricultural Thesaurus terms to new AGRICOLA records and to the AGRICOLA retrospective database. NAL continues to expand and update the NAL Agricultural Thesaurus, adding new terms and subjects, clarifying existing terminology, and incorporating taxonomic changes, enabling more relevant and useful Web access for users.

With the success of the NAL Agricultural Thesaurus, USDA asked NAL to use its taxonomy expertise to lead in the development of a taxonomy for USDA agencies. The resulting USDA taxonomy is an essential component of the e-government initiative and will be used to organize information across the Department of Agriculture.

### Collection Security

NAL collection services staff developed a handbook and training program to help security personnel answer visitor questions and identify materials from the NAL collection. Staff also produced a Disaster Recovery Manual, putting it to immediate use protecting collections during several “water events” affecting the collections. Recovery procedures were re-examined and improved after each event.

### Publications Digitized

NAL continued digitization of core agricultural literature in 2003, including the Journal of Agricultural Research, the Yearbook of Agriculture,



Front cover of John Gardiner & Company's Seed Annual, 1890. Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

**3,516,868**  
**Items—books,**  
**periodicals, maps,**  
**manuscripts,**  
**etc.—in the**  
**NAL collections,**  
**September 30,**  
**2003, an increase**  
**of 7,064 since**  
**2002.**

**\$20,868,578  
Funds  
appropriated  
for salaries  
and programs  
at NAL for FY  
2003. Another  
\$898,020 was  
appropriated  
for building  
repairs and  
maintenance.**

and miscellaneous articles and reprints from USDA programs. Three serial titles, consisting of 319 volumes, were sent to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central digitization project. Finally, guidelines to aid future identification and selection of publications for digitization and preservation were developed and adopted.

### **Preservation**

NAL's special collections staff studied the preservation requirements for 10,600 linear feet of manuscripts and rare books in the NAL collections, resulting in the rehousing of 1,000 linear feet of oversize materials. Staff also created custom boxes for 651 books from the general collection and microfilmed 42 badly deteriorated volumes.

NAL staff continued the initiative to examine the Library's collection of 1,300 newspapers in preparation for preservation microfilming or transferring these materials to preservation-quality boxes.

### **Preserving Still-Images**

In May 2003, NAL began a cooperative project with the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Boston College Library to improve the care and accessibility of still-image collections. The project participants will develop guidelines to help libraries integrate preservation and digitization functions for still images.



Printing blocks created from original C.V. Riley drawings used to illustrate entomology publications. C.V. Riley Printing Blocks Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

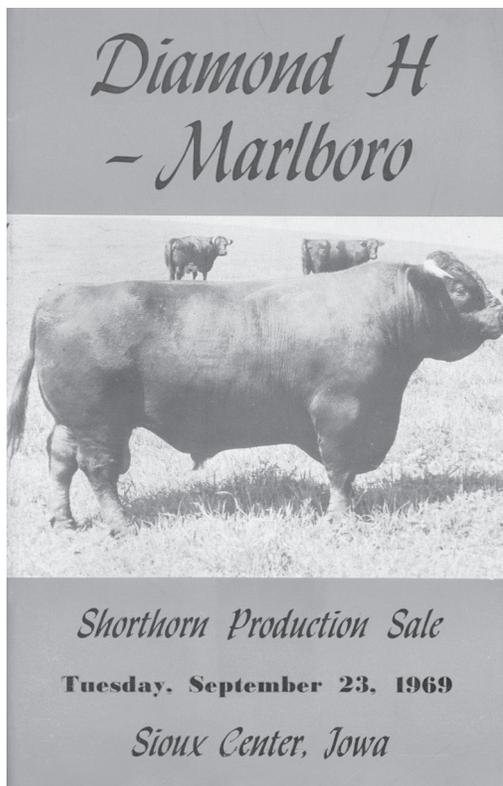
## New Acquisitions for Special Collections

### Shorthorn Cattle Collection

Donated by Wayne Caldwell Neely, the Shorthorn Cattle Collection includes approximately 4,500 catalogs of Shorthorn cattle public sales and a few private-sale or herd catalogs, breed magazine files, official herd books, breed history books, and a wide variety of ephemeral-related publications. Neely's family owned an Iowa farm where they bred purebred Shorthorn cattle from 1883 to 1993. The Shorthorn Cattle Collection reflects Neely's love of the study of pedigree breeds. Most of the catalogs were produced in the United States, but the collection includes catalogs from Canada, the British Isles, Australia, South Africa, and other countries where Shorthorn cattle are bred. NAL staff worked to organize and rehouse this extensive collection of valuable materials.

### Charles Valentine Riley Printing Blocks

The Entomological Society of America donated 1,211 woodcuts, electrotypes (electroplated lead molds of original engravings), and metal cast printing blocks used to illustrate Charles Valentine Riley's publications. These donated items join NAL's extensive collections of Charles Valentine Riley items. Riley (1843-1895) was the State entomologist of Missouri (1868-1877), an entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1878-1879), and Chief of the Federal Entomological Service (1894-1895).



Front cover of  
Diamond H. Marlboro  
Shorthorn Production  
Sale Catalog.  
Shorthorn Cattle  
Catalog Collection.  
Special Collections,  
National Agricultural  
Library.

**16,262  
Mediated  
reference  
requests received  
by NAL reference  
staff in FY 2003.**

### **Dorsett-Morse Oriental Agricultural Exploration Expedition Collection**

The American Soybean Association provided NAL with a collection of 17 diaries from the Dorsett-Morse Oriental Agricultural Exploration Expedition of 1928-1932. These items are on permanent loan to NAL, joining a previously donated set of seven photograph albums from the expedition (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/findaids/dorsett/dorsettintro.html>). The diaries constitute a rich multimedia resource reflecting the expedition's work as recorded in memoranda, expense reports, itineraries, maps, correspondence, ship logs, invoices, and photographs.

### **Special Collection Web Features**

NAL digitized and made Web accessible many important information resources, including the records of several important agricultural leaders and agricultural researchers (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/>).

### **The Frank N. Meyer Plant Exploration Collection**

This collection includes typescript correspondence about Meyer's exploration trip to South China from 1916 to 1918, small black and white photographs of plants found in China, personal letters, and accounts of Meyer's death during the expedition (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/exhibits/meyer/index.html>). From 1905 until his untimely death in 1918, Meyer led expeditions to China, Russia, Japan, and Europe to collect plant samples. Frank Meyer is honored the world over for his contributions as a plant explorer. From apricots to wild pears, Meyer introduced over 2,500 plants to the United States.

### **Abraham Lincoln and Agriculture**

On May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an Act of Congress establishing "at the seat of Government of the United States Department of Agriculture." The Abraham Lincoln and Agriculture exhibit documents the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, the Homestead Act, which provides 160 acres of land to any American or prospective citizens over the age of 21, and the Morrill Land Grant College Act, which donated public land to the states to establish public colleges of agriculture and mechanical arts. Images of the original acts are included in the exhibit (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/exhibits/lincoln/>).

### **Serial Issues**

When serials subscription vendor Divine/Faxon, Inc. filed for bankruptcy in early 2003 after renewing only a small fraction of NAL subscriptions for serials published in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, the

**18,024  
Print serials  
received by  
NAL, FY 2003.**

delay in assigning a new contract threatened to create gaps in the Library's serial collections. NAL's concurrent migration to the Voyager ILS serials control system further complicated the situation and heightened concern. NAL staff was able to mitigate this by extensive negotiations, thus avoiding potential holdings gaps, by claiming missing issues from publishers and other suppliers. As a result, we expect that NAL's customers will have access to serial issues published throughout this period.



Vin-nel Princess Dahlia. J. Horace McFarland Collection. Special Collections, National Agricultural Library.

## Selected Statistics\*

Collections	2000	2001	2002	2003
Volumes held	2,336,549	2,351,433	2,364,878	2,373,695
Volumes added (net)	21,236	14,884	13,445	8,817
Monographs purchased	5,609	4,700	3,705	927
Current serials received	20,763	19,616	19,079	18,024
Microform units	1,073,975	1,075,913	1,078,365	1,085,057
Computer files	1,519	1,607	1,675	1,734
Manuscripts and archives (linear feet)	18,769	18,819	18,867	18,994
Cartographic	1,870	4,287	4,506	4,662
Graphic	821	1,087	1,104	1,115
Audio	461	461	461	461
Film and video	3,664	3,622	3,779	3,382
<b>Information Services</b>				
Mediated reference transactions****	25,724	30,611	17,151	16,262
Document requests received	151,846	138,198	149,726	125,538
Requests filled from NAL collections	115,850	103,754	106,617	95,630
Requests filled through borrowing	16,873	15,767	19,727	13,903
Weekly public service hours	40	40	40	40
<b>Web-Based Services</b>				
Hits to NAL main server	17,769,657	24,129,599	36,287,534	43,574,679
Hits to school meals server	995,641	1,151,165	2,287,063	3,167,524
Hits to NAL AgNIC Web server	4,662,131	4,300,572	4,601,617	5,777,831
Hits to Invasive Species server	37,101	1,060,677	1,036,847	1,438,712
NAL Web search engine queries***			275,429	427,257
Hits to FSTEAs server***		23,997	245,394	348,103
Hits to DigiTop proxy server				513,688
<b>Personnel</b>				
Professional, FTE**	108	107	109	129
Support and student, FTE**	65	62	55	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>218</b>

\* Statistics are from October 1 through September 30 each year.

\*\* Includes contractors and cooperators on long-term agreement.

\*\*\* In 2001 and 2002, NAL began to measure hits not previously reported.

\*\*\*\* The decline in mediated reference transactions from 2001 to 2002 is due largely to the application (in 2002) of a different means of counting these transactions.

## **Appendix: Information Products from the National Agricultural Library 2003**

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## **WebLogs**

West Nile Virus Blog

## **Databases and Forms**

Approved Software: Software Packages for Schools NuMenus, Assisted NuMenus, and State Monitoring of Food Base Menus.

Index to USDA Publications.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/services/USDApubs.shtml>

National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library. International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) Database.

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Research and Reader Services Information Team. Forestry Journals and Databases Available via DigiTop.

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Resource Café. Child Care Nutrition Resource System.

[http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/nal\\_display/index.php?info\\_center=14&tax\\_level=1&tax\\_subject=229](http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=14&tax_level=1&tax_subject=229)

Resource Library: Food Stamp Nutrition Connection Resource Sharing Form.

[http://foodstamp.nal.usda.gov/nal\\_display/index.php?info\\_center=15&tax\\_level=2&tax\\_subject=261&topic\\_id=1285](http://foodstamp.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=15&tax_level=2&tax_subject=261&topic_id=1285)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library, DigiTop Desktop Library for USDA.

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WIC Learning Online: Learning Modules.

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<http://riley.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/resources/ResourceSearch.php>

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National Agricultural Library. Environment News and Announcements.  
<http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/environews.shtml>

National Agricultural Library. Mealtalk: For Professionals Operating Child Nutrition Programs. Healthy School Meals Resource System.  
<http://listserv.nal.usda.gov/archives/mealtalk.html>

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